Dear Subscriber,

David has been busy slaving away finding enough programs to fill all three of our Coverdisks again this month. I think you'll agree that he's done a splendid job – turn over this page to discover what he has prepared exclusively for our subscribers. Having spent your last penny over the festive holiday, we help you get your finances back in order with Money Matters 4 on our main Coverdisks – there's a special time-limited demo of the full package for you to try out. Plus, we have a discount off the price of the program from Digita. And there's loads more stuff on the disks to keep you busy.

As for the rest of the issue, we have another blinder for you. Fresh from Germany we have the 3D program Cinema 4D. Is it as good as Imagine 4? John Kennedy reviews the two programs head-to-head. And we have the second part of our printers Supertest – there are loads of new printers around at the moment, with more on their way. After numerous requests, David has also written a feature introducing the Shell, to help make those of a nervous disposition more confident about using it!

Read on and enjoy!

Sue Grant, Editor.

Sue Grant is the Editor of Amiga Shopper. She has worked in publishing for over 13 years and has been at Future Publishing for the past three of them, firstly as Production Editor of Super Play, then as Deputy Editor of Amiga Format.

Subscribersdisk

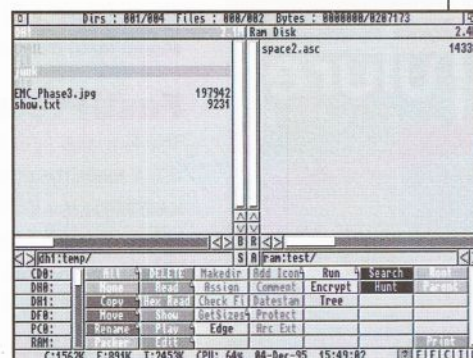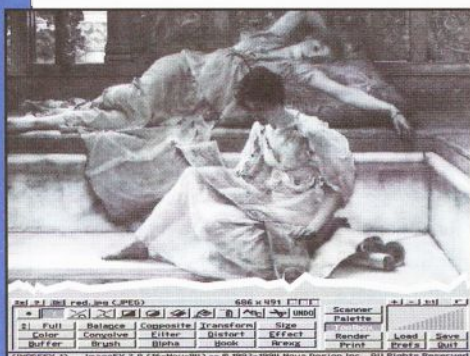*It's February and Valentine's Day is fast approaching.* **David Taylor** *encourages you to show your Amiga just how much you love it by giving it Amiga Shopper's Subscribers disk.*
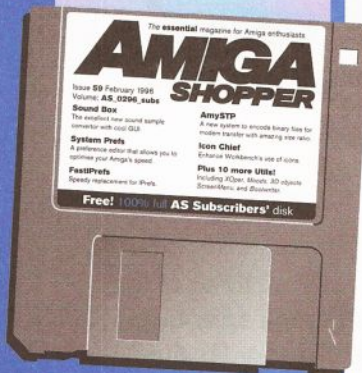
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This month's exclusive Subscribers disk is jam-packed with brilliant programs and much more besides. There are actually three disks archived on to the Subscribers disk, but getting at the programs couldn't be easier. All you have to do is boot the disk and have the first Coverdisk from the main magazine ready (because some files are needed from it). You can then install the programs painlessly to either floppies or hard disk. Here's a quick guide to what's available:

Sound Box

This program is a wonderful tool for audio users. It gives you the power to take control of your sound samples. Not only can you load them in and convert them from one format to another, you can also adjust the sample rate and play the samples back.

There is also a set of effects that allow you to change the samples – you can flip them around, set up a loop, optimise a sample or fade it out at the end. As you'll soon discover, the ease of use coupled with the power of this surprisingly small utility make it a real gem for music makers. Please note that this is the Shareware version and although functional, there is a registered version that offers even more. See the documents for details.

System Prefs

With A1200s, it is possible to adjust the way the system operates and whether it uses caches or not, but it can be a pain changing them. System Prefs is a GUI that gives you control over the system and includes a guide to all the possibilities and what they actually do. This is a utility for those who know about their Amiga, so novices should tread carefully.

FastIPrefs

This is a version of IPrefs that has been re-written for OS 3.1. It loads the preferences quicker and allows you to load things like Workbench backdrop pictures faster than before. It needs copying to your C: directory, but you should make a copy of the original IPrefs as a backup before overwriting it with this new version.

AmySTP

Whenever you want to send a binary file via E-mail, you have to find a way around the fact that E-mail only sends ASCII text. This means converting executables or archives to ASCII, using some sort of code that can be deciphered at the destination to reconstruct the original files. Although this uuencoding (as it is known) works, you end up with a text file you need to send that is much larger than the original file, which means expensive and wasted online time.

AmySTP is a new program that can encode files, but results with a text file of similar length to the original! You need to use AmySTP to encode and decode the data, but you'll be amazed at the results.

Icon Chief

One of the annoying things about Workbench is that despite three versions when you show all files from the menu, you see files which don't have icons with the same non-informative hammer icon. Icon Chief, once installed, changes this by making use of the whatis.library (not supplied) to use a correct type of icon. It can make Workbench much more accessible.

And the rest...

There's much more on this disk too, but not enough room here to give you a complete description. **XOper** is a system monitor that gives you full details of the tasks that your Amiga is performing, which can be useful in tracking down problems. **Moods** is an interface designed to allow you to swap between Workbench preferences easily and even when the new files, like pictures, are stored in an archive.

Because there was no room on the Coverdisks this month for a 3D Zone, there are three objects included on this disk. There is the rocket object for **Real 3D** owners (which can be used in the full version of Real 3D Classic given away by our sister magazine, Amiga Format on their November 1995 issue. If you missed it call ☎ 01225 822511 to get hold of a back issue) and also the monk object for **LightWave**. Both of these were featured in the Internet section of our PD Select last month. There's also a huge skeleton object for **Imagine** users. Hope that keeps 3D enthusiasts happy.

ScreenMenu gives you an easy way to manage Public Screens and **BootWriter** is a cool program for working with the bootblocks of disks – this is a program for use by experts only, beginners should take care.

There's also the executable program compiled from the source code (on the main Coverdisks) from this month's **AMOS tutorial** on page 70.

DMouse is a little utility for accelerating and blanking your mouse, amongst other things. And if you're a little tired after working your way through that lot, there's a directory contain a couple of **music modules** for you to listen to.

See you next month! ■